



Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Skills Checklist Science Parent Brochure



BACKGROUND

The Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) in science at Grades 5, 8 and 10 provide an assessment of how well students are reaching standards of achievement established by the State Board of Education. Connecticut has continually advocated that, to the extent possible, students with disabilities should participate in both the general education curriculum and the standard administration of the CMT and CAPT in science. In 1997, when federal legislation reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), high expectations for students with disabilities became a national priority. One component of this legislation included the development of an alternate assessment for the relatively small group of special education students who cannot participate in the standard assessment program. Connecticut's alternate science assessment is the Skills Checklist.

OVERVIEW

The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science is structured to help teachers individualize instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities and provide information about their academic performance. The CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science is completed by the student's primary special education teacher. Judgments are made by the teacher based on observations and interactions with students throughout the year. Teachers use a "working" copy of the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science to plan instruction, monitor student progress and growth, and document achievement. The working copy is referenced when completing the online version of the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science during the March statewide assessment period.

REPORTING RESULTS

Students receive a full report of their results. While there is no passing score on the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science, three performance levels have been established: Basic, Proficient and Independent. Summary results focused on the Proficient and Independent levels are also reported for schools, districts, and the state. These results allow educators to identify academic strengths and weaknesses to better plan instructional supports for students. It is important to note that the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science is only one indicator of student performance. The results should be used along with other information, such as results from classroom assignments and other assessments, when making educational decisions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science, go to www.ct.gov/sde. Click on the Student Assessment link and then CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science.